



March 11, 2014

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the National Institutes of Health Bethesda Campus proposed Master Plan in Bethesda, Maryland. The Master Plan outlines a strategy for accommodating potential campus development subject to NIH and Health and Human Services (HHS) priorities and the availability of resources.

Three alternatives were considered in detail and are presented in the DEIS: the Proposed Action Alternative, the No Action (continue current NIH operations) and the Maximum Development Alternative. The NIH's preferred alternative is the Proposed Action Alternative. The DEIS addresses concerns identified by NIH or raised during public scoping. Following the 45-day comment period, the DEIS was prepared.

The NIH will hold a public meeting on April 8, 2014 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm to solicit comments on the DEIS. This meeting will take place at Little Falls Library, 5501 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20816.

Public comment on the DEIS will be accepted during a 60-day comment period ending **May 23, 2014**. Comments should be sent to Valerie Nottingham at, NIH, B13/2S11, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892, or nihnepa@mail.nih.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. G. Wheeland", is positioned above the printed name.

Daniel G. Wheeland

Director, Office of Research Facilities Development and Operations
National Institutes of Health